

a mail memory storing an electronic mail which is sent to one user downloaded from the mail server through the access means;

a mail status memory storing each state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the terminal devices, wherein each state stored in said status memory means indicates whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and

transmission means for transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory to one of the terminal devices, wherein the electronic mail managing function is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing function integratedly manages the electronic mail based on the status of the electronic mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

3. (AS THREE TIMES AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:

a process table storing a process to be applied to the electronic mail after the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices.

7. (AS FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A mail managing method in a mail managing apparatus capable of transmitting/receiving mail data to/from at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said method comprising:

a reading process of reading mail which is sent to one user stored in the mail server;

a storing process of storing the mail read in the reading process;

a display process of displaying a state of the mail stored in the storing process for each of the terminal devices, wherein said state includes whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and

a transmission process of transmitting the mail stored in the storing process to one of the terminal devices, wherein the mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the mail managing method integratedly manages the mail based on a state of the mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

8. (AS FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program executed by a

mail managing apparatus capable of transmitting/receiving mail data to/from at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said program when executed by the mail managing apparatus executing the processes comprising:

a reading process of reading a mail which is sent to one user stored in the mail server;

a storing process of storing the mail read in the reading process;

a display process of displaying a state of the mail stored in the storing process for each of the terminal devices, wherein said state includes whether or not the electronic mail is downloaded to each of the terminal devices; and

a transmission process of transmitting the mail stored in the storing process to one of the terminal devices, wherein the mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the mail managing apparatus integrately manages the mail server based on the state of the mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

9. (AS FOUR TIMES AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address, comprising:

a receiving unit receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to one predetermined address;

a mail memory unit storing the received electronic mail;

mail status memory means for storing each state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein the each state of the mail status memory means indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal device has been transmitted to the terminal device,

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by one of the plurality of terminal devices, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus integrately manages the

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electronic mail based on the electronic mail state corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

17. (AS FOUR TIMES AMENDED) An electronic mail managing method in an electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address, comprising:

receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to one predetermined address;

storing the received electronic mail in a memory unit;

storing in a status memory unit each state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each state of the status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal devices has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, and transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing method integrately manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail state corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

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24. (AS FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program executing electronic mail management in an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, the program when executed by the information processing apparatus executing the functions comprising:

receiving an electronic mail sent to one predetermined address from a mail server which stores therein the electronic mail addressed to an address;

storing the received electronic mail in a memory unit;

storing in a status memory unit each state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each state indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail management for each terminal devices has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

transmitting the electronic mail stored in the memory unit and received thereof from the

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mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said one of the plurality of terminal devices, wherein the electronic mail management is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices and wherein the electronic mail management integratedly manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail state corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

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31. (AS FOUR TIMES AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system comprising:
an electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address; and
a plurality of terminal devices capable of communicating with the electronic mail managing apparatus; and
wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus comprising:
a receiving unit receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to one predetermined address;
a mail memory unit storing therein the received electronic mail;
mail status memory means for storing each state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each state of the mail status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal device has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and
a transmitting unit transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices and wherein the electronic mail management apparatus integratedly manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail state corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 29, 2002, claims 1, 3-9, 12-17, 20-24, 27-31, and 34-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsiao (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,137) in view of Horiuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,530). The foregoing rejections